



HUTTO PARD YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM PARENTS' TIP SHEET 2015-2016



You've just registered your child or children for the 2015-2016 Winter Youth Basketball program. Here are a few more things for you to keep in mind and put on your calendar:

What have I committed my child & my family to by signing up for this program? First, let us thank you in advance for signing up for our youth basketball program. You have committed your child to a youth sports team experience that will include weekly practices (up to 2 per week) and a seven (7) game season. You have committed to get your child to these practices and games and possibly volunteer as a scorekeeper, coach, and / or team manager. You have also committed to making your child's experience in youth sports more positive by committing to attend a parent's training session that will explain our basketball program and remind everyone about good sportsmanship and making it fun for everyone.

When Do We Start? The Coach Look process begins Monday, November 16 (for Girls) and Tuesday, November 17 (for Boys). It is our goal to have rosters to coaches by November 25 and they should contact you following our meeting with them. Coaches will have to attend a series of coaches' meetings and trainings where they will receive their rosters and information regarding the league and then they'll be able to contact you. If you do not hear from your child's coach by the following weekend, then please contact our offices by December 1 at 512-759-4000.

How Are Teams Formed? Every child that registers will be placed on a team. No child will be "cut" from a team. Every child is guaranteed a minimum amount of playing time as well. Players 6 & Under will be randomly placed together with their coaches. Players ages 7-12 (8 & Under; 10 & Under; 12 & Under) will be formed using a "Coach Look" and Draft process. Teams are divided into divisions according to your child's age as of September 1, 2015 (Ages 5-12 only). Divisions are separated into girls and boys. Individual registration is available this year for the following divisions are 6 & under, 8 & under, 10 & under, 12 & under. All of our coaches are subject to a background check through our coaches training and certification program as well.

Can I Play With My Friend? We know that everyone is excited about the season and we hope that all children are able to meet new friends in our league. There are many different youth sports programs around the area and they all put their leagues together differently. Some have try outs and a draft; others let you pick your pick of friends and play. Once coaches are selected, this league will "protect" the head coach's child and the assistant coach's child. We also have rules that have other players possibly carried forward from the previous season if they stay in the same division with the same coach from the previous year. All others will be placed on teams through the draft process. It is difficult to honor individual requests as they may all seem valid and for very good reasons (ex. play with a friend, neighbor, former coach, carpooling, etc.), it just becomes impossible to honor everyone's requests. If you have a potential conflict that you would like our staff to be aware of you may write this on the registration form request this on the registration form, but again, it may not be able to be honored.

Practices will begin week of November 30. Coaches will receive their rosters at a coaches' meeting the week before (Thanksgiving week) and then be able to call their players. Teams will be given a few practices prior to the holidays and then start back after the New Year begins. Once games begin on January 9th, it will be our goal to continue weekly practices as the season progresses.

Games begin approximately Saturday, January 9. Games are generally played on Saturdays but may be played during the week if needed due to limited gym space or if there is a need for any make-ups. Games will continue throughout January and February. The season is scheduled to end prior to the end of February. Each team will play a seven (7) game season. There is also the possibility of teams playing in post-season tournaments. More info on that later.

What is SMART Parent Training? Texas Amateur Athletic Federation's "S.M.A.R.T. Parents for Youth Sports" Program is a 1 - 1 1/2 hour class offered for program's parents in order to make our youth sports leagues a better place for our children to play. This class will be offered in December and January before games begin. ***This is a MANDATORY program and one parent per household must attend in order to attend your children's games.*** This two (2) year certification program is recognized statewide for its emphasis on sportsmanship making youth sports better for everyone. More information about the dates and times the classes that will be held will be emailed to all parents and coaches after registration is complete. Please note that some options may involve an additional fee.

How will this program handle practice night or scheduling conflicts? This program uses Hutto ISD gym space with limited in availability. It is important to note that while the program pays for the ability to use space this time is not always guaranteed; conflicts do arise. **ALTERNATE PRACTICE TIMES DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED.** Due to the size of the league and limited gym space, coaches' conflicts are honored first for all divisions. Practices could be held any day of the week (most likely weeknights, including Wednesdays and some Saturdays). We understand that parents have other commitments for the children their household. We ask that everyone please assist us with following the rules understand that we have to do the best we can with what we are presented with for the program.

What Else Do You Need To Know? Our last day to register is November 13 unless a division has reached its maximum capacity. This is also the last day that a full refund can be requested if your child must drop from our program. Your child's registration fee includes: several things: a team jersey/t-shirt, medals, a basic picture package (team photo and individual picture in a memory mate style), officials' fees, as well as HISD facility fees, coaches' and parents' training sessions.

If you have any further questions regarding the program, please call the Hutto Parks & Recreation Department between the hours of 8:00am – 5:00pm at 512-759-4000 or you may email Lacey Dingman at Lacey.Dingman@huttotx.gov